

Almost daily we are reminded of the violence that plagues our children and the Nation. The statistics are startling. Among the 26 richest nations, the United States accounted for 73 percent of the homicides in which a child was the victim. Three children a day die as a result of child abuse or neglect. Too many children are lost to violence. So many of these deaths are preventable.

□ 1500

I want this day to remind us that we must do a better job of keeping our children safe. Children are the most vulnerable members of our society. We as a nation have an obligation to guide and protect them. We all must work together to end the violence against our children.

Tomorrow, all 50 State governments and the District of Columbia will participate in National Children's Memorial Flag Day. Many States are flying or displaying the children's memorial flag on or near their State capital. Other States are participating by issuing proclamations.

In Nevada, because of the diligence of Donna Husted of the Children's Advocacy Alliance, the children's memorial flag is being flown over the Nevada State capital, the Nevada Department of Child Protective Services, City Hall in Las Vegas, the Clark County government building, and the Clark County Child Protective Services building. I commend Donna Husted for her efforts and thank her on behalf of all the loved ones of the children we have lost.

This day is a community effort, a community effort that involves everyone. It crosses racial and ethnic lines. It crosses religious lines. It crosses party lines. I encourage all of my colleagues to support the goals of National Children's Memorial Flag Day. It is a day to remember, to remember the innocent lives we have lost.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her statement.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague SHELLEY BERKLEY to support this concurrent resolution that honors National Children's Memorial Flag Day.

This concurrent resolution supports the commemoration of the 4th Friday of each April as National Children's Memorial Flag Day. In addition this resolution encourages national, State, and local agencies and private organizations to fly the Children's Memorial Flag to remember the children lost to violence and to raise public awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children.

I support this resolution nationally because of its successful observance in my Congressional district. In 1996, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted the Children's Memorial Flag Project, and established a National Children's Memorial Day on the fourth Friday in the month of April to remember children who have died by violence. I want to commend Supervisor Gail Steele of Alameda County for her tireless work and dedication to get this resolution adopted. In addition, the California Assembly formally declared the

fourth Friday in April as a statewide annual observance day. The Child Welfare League of America has adopted Alameda County's Children's Memorial Flag and promotes it nationally.

This Congressional resolution is particularly timely in the wake of the two school shootings in California at Granite Hills High School in El Cajon, California and Santana High School in Santee, California. Unfortunately, acts of violence against children happen far too often. According to the Child Welfare League of America, three infants and children die from abuse and neglect in the U.S. each day, and ten children die a day as a result of gun violence. In fact, more children lose their lives to criminal violence in the U.S. than in any of the 26 industrialized nations of the world.

We have lost far too many children in violent, preventable deaths. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to work with renewed resolve to ensure that our children have a full opportunity to become healthy and productive adults. Even one child lost is one child too many.

I urge my fellow members to support the National Children's Memorial Flag Day concurrent resolution through unanimous consent.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 110

Whereas among the world's 26 richest nations, the United States accounted for 73 percent of child homicide victims;

Whereas at least 3 children a day die from physical abuse or chronic neglect in the United States;

Whereas April has been designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, an annual tradition started by President Jimmy Carter in 1979; and

Whereas the fourth Friday of each April is National Children's Memorial Flag Day, when many State and local governmental agencies and private organizations fly the Children's Memorial Flag to remember children lost to violence and to heighten public awareness of the need for communities to help vulnerable children and families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) supports National Children's Memorial Flag Day; and

(2) encourages national, State, and local agencies and private organizations to fly the Children's Memorial Flag—

(A) to remember children lost to violence; and

(B) to raise public awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 110.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 3 of Public Law 94-304, as amended by section 1 of Public Law 99-7, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

Mr. HOYER of Maryland,
Mr. CARDIN of Maryland,
Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York,
Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.
There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ON H. CON. RES. 106, COMMENDING THE CREW OF THE U.S. NAVY EP-3 FOLLOWING THE ACCIDENT WITH A CHINESE AIRCRAFT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the crew of the U.S. Navy EP-3 aircraft for their outstanding performance of duty following the collision with the Chinese F-8 fighter on April 1 and during their subsequent detention by Chinese authorities on the island of Hainan, China.

I want to make several points about this incident. First, our plane and its crew did nothing to precipitate this incident. They were flying straight and level, on autopilot, at a slow speed in international airspace. They were performing a routine and legitimate reconnaissance and surveillance mission similar to those performed by many other countries around the world.

It was the Chinese jet that flew in front of and dangerously close to our EP-3 aircraft. It was the Chinese pilot who displayed poor and unprofessional airmanship, causing his plane to collide with ours. To me, it is simply implausible to suggest a slow and level